Regular interaction is also maintained by Coast Guard with the fishing community through institutionalised community interaction programmes wherein they are provided free medical treatment and educated about aspects relating to safety at sea, use of navigation and life saving equipment.

Proposal of Pak President regarding withdrawal of Indian Troops from Siachen

2071. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the recent meeting between the Prime Minister and the Pak President on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly the Pak President had proposed and assured that if Indian forces withdraw from Siachen, Pakistani troops would not encroach up or occupy the vacated area/posts; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) During the meeting between Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh and Pakistan President on September 24, 2004 in New York on the sidelines of UN General Assembly, there was no discussion on the Siachen issue.

(b) Does not arise.

Revival of airborne Early Warning System project

2072. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have cleared the revival of Airborne Early Warning System project which was scrapped in January, 1999;

(b) whether any Committee has been constituted to study the platforms for the above system; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Government approved a programme for indigenous development of an Airborne Early Warning and Control (AEW&C) System adopting the state-of-the-art techonolgies. This is a different programme than the earlier project on Air Surveillance Platform.